Sailor's Carol

in memoriam

for SATB choir unaccompanied

Text: Charles Causley
Music: Clive Strutt

ES Verlag

Cover illustration: From a photograph of the HMS *Narborough* in the Orkney Library and Archive.

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In Memoriam

The memorial at Windwick Bay to the men who lost their lives on the two ships

On Friday, 12 January 2018 the English composer Clive Strutt, who has his residence on the Orkney island of South Ronaldsay, set *The Sailor's Carol* by the Cornish poet Charles Causley (1917-2003) for unaccompanied SATB choir.

A century ago on Saturday, 12 January 1918 two Royal Navy destroyers — the HMS *Narborough* and HMS *Opal* — ran aground, hit rocks off the east coast of South Ronaldsay and became wrecked which resulted in 188 men perishing, i.e. all of them except Able Seaman William Sissons from HMS *Opal* who was rescued two days after the disaster.

The ships were on night perol and on the lookout for German ships and submarines laying mines. They had battled very heavy seas and a blizzard and were hoping to enter the shelter of Scapa Flow but due to a navigational error and visibility near zero they ran onto Hesta Rock at the north of Windwick Bay.

It is worthy of note that Charles Causley himself had enlisted in the Royal Navy and served as a coder during the Second World War. His wartime experiences are recorded in both his poetry and a book of short stories entitled *Hands to Dance and Skylark*.

Edward W. Watson, Kirkwall, Orkney

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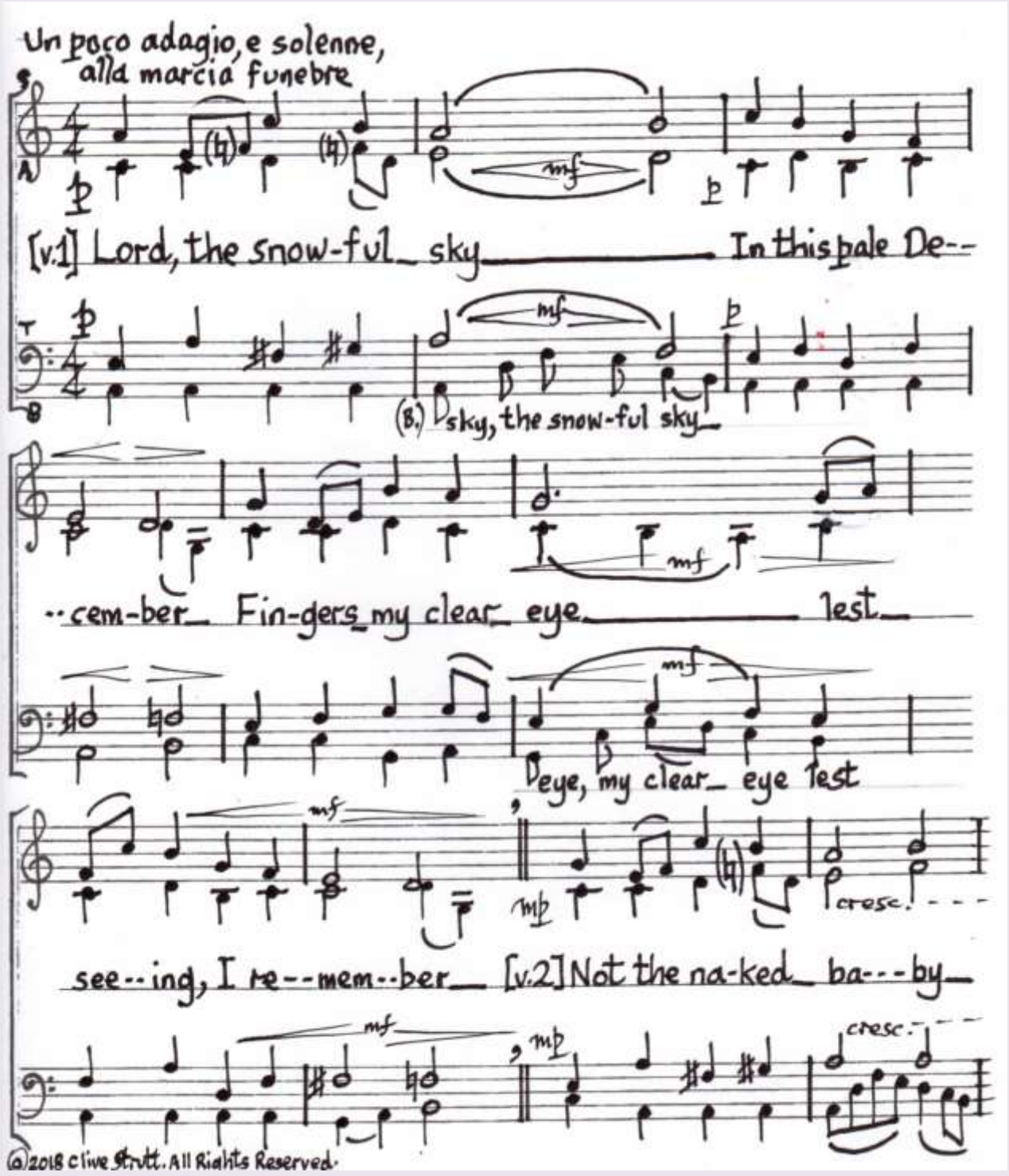
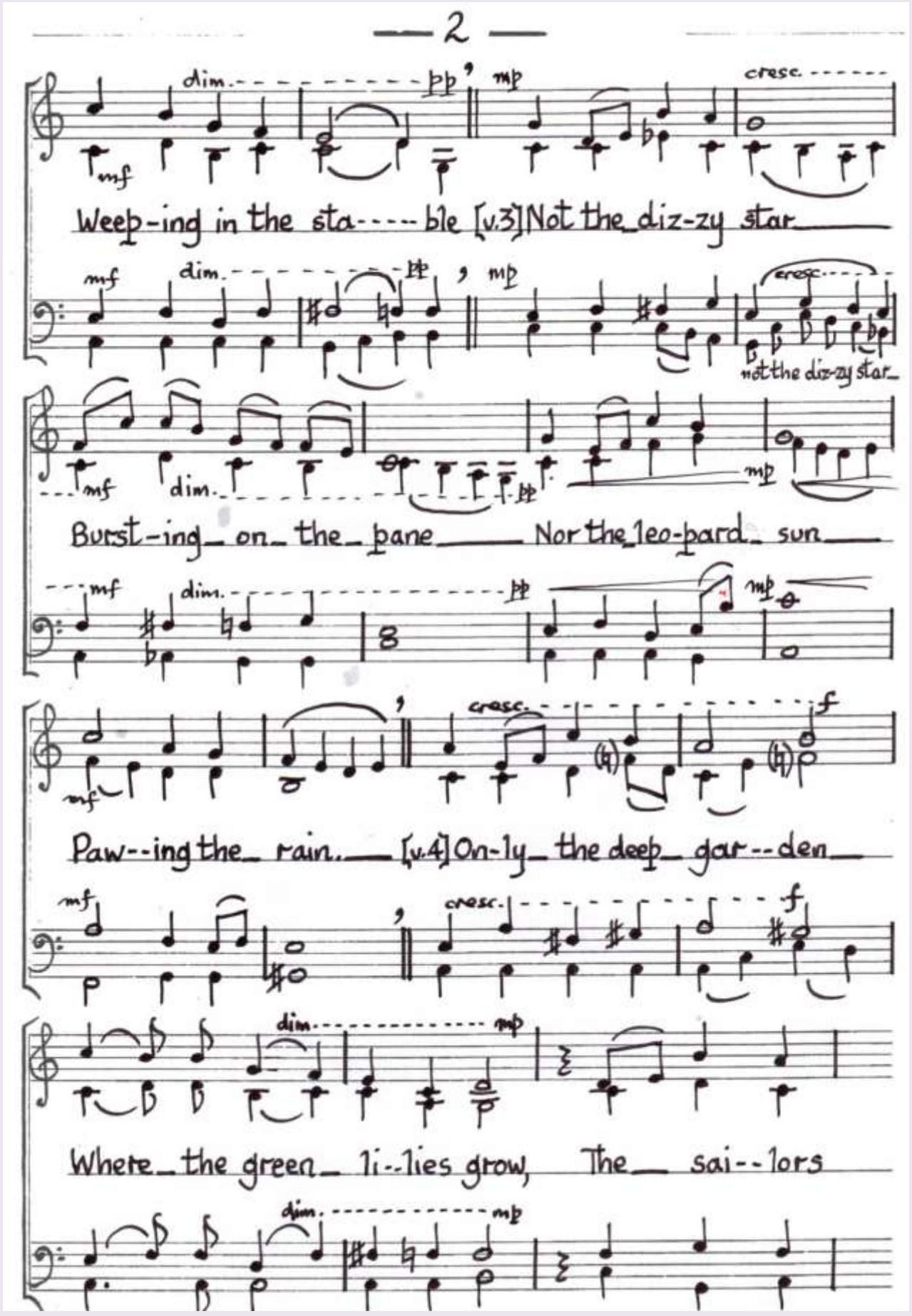
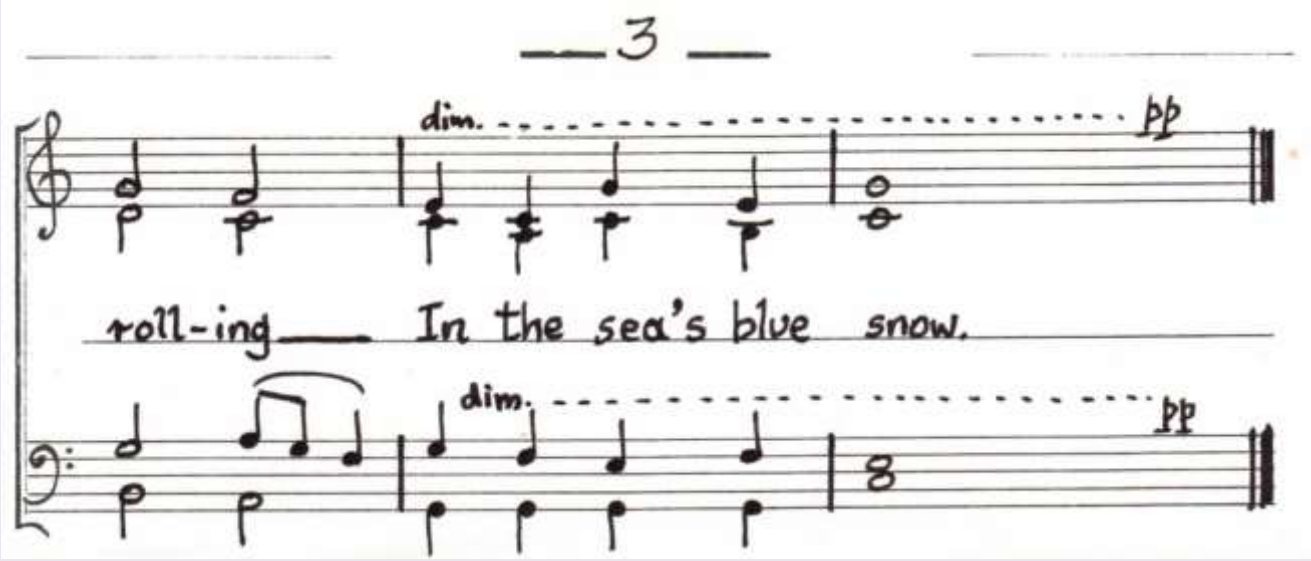



dim.
pp
mp
cresc.
mf
Weep-ing in the sta----ble [v.3]Not the diz-zy star
mf
dim.
pp
mp
cresc.
not the diz-zy star
mf
dim.
mp
Burst-ing on the pane Nor the leo-pard sun
mf
dim.
pp
mp
mf
cresc.
f
Paw--ing the rain. [v.4]On-ly the deep gar--den
mf
cresc.
f
dim.
mp
Where the green li--lies grow, The sai--lors
dim.
mp


dim.
pp
roll-ing In the sea's blue snow.
dim.
pp